

What is claimed:

1. A stable particle of from 0.05 to 10 millimeters in diameter comprising a mixture of an organic material that is an oleophilic liquid at 75°C and a gelation agent that is a solid at 25°C, the proportions of the gelation agent to oleophilic liquid being between 0.05% to 70% by weight gelation agent to organic material, the solidification or gelation temperature of the mixture being at or above 25°C.
2. The stable particle of claim 1 wherein the gelation agent comprises an organic compound selected from the group consisting of a solid organic compound, a wax, and a polymer.
3. The stable particle of claim 2 wherein the organic material comprises an oil that is a liquid at 25°C.
4. The stable particle of claim 1 in an aqueous carrier comprising 2-50% by weight of the beads.
5. The stable particle of claim 2 wherein the bead has an average diameter of between 0.1 and 3 millimeters and the proportions of the gelation agent to organic material being between 0.5% to 50% by weight gelation agent to organic material.
6. The stable particle of claim 3 wherein the bead has an average diameter of between 0.1 and 1 millimeters and the proportions of the gelation agent to organic material liquid being between 0.5% to 40% by weight gelation agent to organic material.
7. The stable particle of claim 2 wherein the organic material comprises an organic material that is a solid at 25°C.

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8. A method of forming a stable particle of from 0.05 to 10 millimeters in diameter comprising a mixture of an organic material that is an oleophilic liquid at 75°C and a gelation agent, the proportions of the gelation agent to organic material being between 0.05% to 70% by weight gelation agent to organic material, the method comprising:

- a) mixing together at least the organic material and the gelation agent,
- b) providing the mixture at a temperature wherein the mixture is a fluid or liquid;
- c) forming particles of the fluid material; and
- d) cooling the particles to a temperature so that the fluid or liquid becomes a solid or gel particle.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein cooling of the liquid in step d) causes the gelation agent to form distinct particles within the particles formed of the fluid material.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the cooling of the liquid causes the gelation agent to form distinct elongate elements within the particles formed of the fluid material.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the cooling of the liquid causes the gelation agent to form a network of solid gelation agent within the particles formed of the fluid material.

12. The method of claim 8 wherein the cooling of the liquid or fluid mixture causes the gelation agent to form a gradation of concentration of the gelation agent within the particles, with higher concentration of the gelation agent at the surface of the particles than at the core of the particles.

13. The process of claim 8 wherein the liquid or fluid mixture is maintained at a temperature at least 5°C above the solidification temperature of the mixture as a fluid or liquid material and cooling is done to a temperature that is at least 5°C below the solidification temperature of the mixture to form solid stable beads.

14. The method of claim 8 wherein the gelation agent comprises an organic gelation agent.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein the organic material comprises an oil that is liquid at 25°C.

16. The method of claim 10 wherein the organic material comprises an oil that is liquid at 25°C.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein the organic material comprises an oil that is liquid at 25°C.

18. The method of claim 12 wherein the organic material comprises an oil that is liquid at 25°C.

19. The method of claim 8 wherein the solid or gel particles formed in step d) is added to an aqueous carrier comprising 2-50% by weight of those particles.

20. The method of claim 8 wherein the particles formed in step d) have an average diameter of between 0.1 and 2 millimeters and the proportions of the gelation agent to oleophilic liquid being between 0.5% to 30% by weight gelation agent to oleophilic liquid.

21. The method of claim 9 wherein the bead has an average diameter of between 0.1 and 2 millimeters and the proportions of the gelation agent to organic material being between 0.5% to 30% by weight gelation agent to organic material.

22. The method of claim 9 wherein cooling the droplets is to a temperature at least 10°C below the T_{gel} of the mixture to form solid stable beads.

23. The method of claim 10 wherein cooling the droplets is to a temperature at least 10°C below the T_{gel} of the mixture to form solid stable beads.

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